

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02963 291605Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 DHA-05

ACDA-07 /100 W

-----089438 291820Z /41

P R 291507Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6669

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AME

BASSY GABORONE 1834

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2963

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH ZA

SUBJ: ZAPU/ZANU MERGER MEETING

1. VINCENT MIJONI, EDITOR OF LUSAKA'S DAILY MAIL, CAME TO SEE ME LAST NIGHT ABOUT THE SCHEDULED PATRIOTIC FRONT MEETING AT THE END OF THIS WEEK. HE SAID FRANKLY THAT HE WAS COMING AS A PUBLIC RELATIONS FRIEND OF NKOMO/ZAPU BECAUSE HE WANTED TO BE SURE THAT THE U.S. ADOPTED A SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE MERGED PF WHICH WOULD BE CREATED AT THE MEETING.

2. MIJONI SAID THAT SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE PF TEN MONTHS AGO, WORK HAS BEEN UNDERWAY ON A STRUCTURE FOR A SINGLE UNIFIED PARTY. LEO ZJRON HAS BEEN PREPARING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 02963 291605Z

A CONSTITUTION FOR THE PARTY WHICH IS NOW COMPLETE. NKOMO AND MUGABE HAVE AGREED ON THE MOVE, ALTHOUGH ALL OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN DECIDED. NKOMO WILL OF COURSE BE HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION. MUGABE WILL ENCOUNTER SOME OPPOSITION WITHIN HIS OWN ORGANIZATION FROM THE GROUP WHICH WAS INCARCERATED IN LUSAKA AFTER THE MURDER OF CHITEPO (TONGOGARA, GUMBO, MUDZI AND HAMADZIRIPI)

BUT HIS POSITION AT THE MOMENT IS STRONG ENOUGH TO ALLOW HIM TO HANDLE IT. MIJONI SAID THAT MUGABE WAS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF THE MERGER BUT THE REAL MOTIVATING FORCE BEHIND IT WAS MUGABE'S GHANAIAWIFE WHO IS INSISTING ON THE NEED FOR NATIONALIST UNITY. SHE IS HIGHLY POLITICIZED AND VERY INFLUENTIAL.

3. MIJONI SAID THE MERGER WOULD NOT ONLY BE POLITICAL BUT ALSO MILITARY, INTENDED TO BRING GREATER DISCIPLINE TO THE ZANU FORCES. HE CLAIMED THAT THERE ARE NOW AS MANY AS 250 ZANU MILITARY "COMMANDERS" BEING DETAINED IN TANZANIA AND 300 IN MOZAMBIQUE. NYERERE AND HRACHEL, HE SAID, SIMPLY GOT TIRED OF THE INDISCIPLINE, PETTY THIEVERY AND LAWLESSNESS OF THESE ELEMENTS. THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO RELEASE THEM UNTIL THERE IS A DISCIPLINED AND UNITED STRUCTURE INTO WHICH THEY CAN BE INTEGRATED.

4. REGARDING THE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, MIJONI SAID NKOMO WOULD NOT AGREE TO SEND MILITARY COMMANDERS TO THE DISCUSSIONS WITH LORD CARVER AND THE UN REP. HE WANTED TO AVOID AT ALL COSTS BRINGING HIS MILITARY COMMANDERS INTO PUBLIC LIMELIGHT AND STIMULATING THEIR POLITICAL AMBITIONS. PRESUMABLY THE PF WILL BE REPRESENTED BY POLITICAL LEVEL OFFICIALS AND PROBABLY BY NKOMO HIMSELF. MIJONI ALSO INDICATED THE MEETING WOULD BE DEVOTED TO THE MERGER. THERE WAS NO PLAN TO ISSUE OR DISCUSS A CONSTITUTION OR ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS FOR A CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUSAKA 02963 291605Z

SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA TO THAT OF THE UK AND U.S.

5. WE UNDERSTAND THE MEETINGS STARTED THURSDAY MORNING THE 29TH, WITH WORK SPLIT BETWEEN POLITICAL, MILITARY, CONSTITUTIONAL, PUBLICITY AND "COMMISSARIAT" (POLITICAL-MILITARY COORDINATION) COMMITTEES.

6. COMMENT: MIJONI, WHO HAS BEEN EDITOR OF THE DAILY MAIL FOR NINE YEARS, IS EXTREMELY CLOSE TO NKOMO AND ZAPU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. HE IS ALSO VERY CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH STATE HOUSE AND PRESIDENT KAUNDA. LIKE SO MANY OTHERS HERE, HE HAS A VERY HAZY IDEA OF THE SPECIFICS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL. PART OF THE CONVERSATION, NOT REPORTED ABOVE, CONSISTED SIMPLY OF HIS QUESTIONS ABOUT PROVISIONS OF THE PROPOSAL. NOR ARE WE CERTAIN OF THE ACCURACY OF HIS STATEMENTS ABOUT MUGABE AND ZANU, ALTHOUGH WE DO BELIEVE HE ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE VIEWS OF NKOMO AND THE ZAPU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. WHETHER THEY, IN TURN, ARE BEING OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ZANU'S WILLINGNESS TO CREATE A UNIFIED PF PARTY REMAINS TO BE SEEN. THEY GIVE EVERY APPEARANCE, ANYWAY, OF HAVING BEEN FULLY CONVINCED THAT IT WILL OCCUR THIS WEEKEND.

LOW

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, PARTY ALLIANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LUSAKA02963
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770355-0688
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977098/aaaaagum.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ef369849-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1328246
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAPU/ZANU MERGER MEETING
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH, ZA, ZANU, ZAPU, (MIJONI, VINCENT), (NKOMO, JOSHUA), (MUGABE, ROBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ef369849-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009